Михаил Юрьевич Лермонтов

“А HERO FOR ALL TIMES”

Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov

POET, PROPHET, PATRIOT
No, I'm not Byron
No, I'm not Byron, it's my role
To be an undiscovered wonder,
Like him, a persecuted wand'rer,
But furnished with a Russian soul.

I started sooner, sooner ending,
My mind will never reach so high;
Within my soul, beyond the mending,
My shattered aspirations lie;
Dark ocean answer me, can any
Plumb all your depth with skillful trawl?
Who will explain me to the many?
I...perhaps God? No one at all?

1832
Translated by Alan Myers

Like a fiery comet, Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov shot across the horizon of world literature, leaving a dazzling trail before he died in a duel at age 26. For nearly 200 years his poems have been devoured in every Russian classroom, with millions of copies distributed throughout his native land. They have been translated into numerous languages.

Born 15 years after Alexander Pushkin, he too exerted major influence on Russian language and culture. Pushkin nurtured progressive ideas in the 1820’s and Lermontov followed suit in the 1830’s, challenging conventional Russian attitudes towards life, literature, and art. Lermontov touched on a great variety of themes, from his poem about the Patriotic War of 1812, known by heart by almost every Russian, to his uncanny prophesies about events yet to happen in Russia.

Lermontov’s magnificent poetry and prose have had a great impact on generations of Russians. This bicentennial of his birth will be celebrated with much fanfare throughout Russia.
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“A HERO FOR ALL TIMES”

Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov
POET, PROPHET, PATRIOT

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ARCCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public organization founded 22 years ago by a small group of prominent Americans dedicated to increased understanding and respect between the peoples of Russia and America through the mutual appreciation of arts and culture. Recognized as a trusted organizer of major exhibitions in leading museums of both countries, it has arranged performances by prominent Russian and American virtuosos and produced major events at the Kennedy Center and on Capitol Hill celebrating the most important pages of our joint history.

Prior recipients of the Foundation Award include: Maestro Mstislav Rostropovich, Maestro Van Cliburn, Igor Moiseyev, Tatiana Kudriavtseva, Dr. James Billington, Maestro Valery Gergiev, Dave Brubeck, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Michael Kaiser, Dr. G. Wayne Clough, Donald M. Kendall, Igor Butman and Wynton Marsalis.

ARCCF created a cultural bridge between the capitals of the two countries by initiating two major monuments:

Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837) in Washington, DC
and
Walt Whitman (1819-1892) in Moscow.